

Foreign Problems Confront LBJ

By Drew Pearson

Like a housewife who returns home to a pile of dirty dishes after a pleasant party, President Johnson has left the big jamboree in Atlantic City for a pile of dirty foreign problems. All are inherited, two have potentialities of bomb-dripping bomb-dripping which could blow up the world.



Pearson

In Cyprus, the United States, plus Greece and Turkey, is suffering from the egocentricities of Archbishop Makarios, the President of Cyprus, whose behavior illustrates the wisdom of the American principle that clergymen should stay out of politics. Makarios is the leader of the Greek Orthodox Church of Cyprus.

In Viet-Nam, the United States is still suffering from the fact that Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York enticed the Eisenhower Administration into the initial intervention in South Viet-Nam, to protect Catholic converts.

This is an area where the highly trained French army, supported by more U.S. dollars than we spent on the Marshall Plan for all of France, was not able to bring order during four long and bloody years.

The United States with only 18,000 advisers there today can't be expected to do much better.

Only two factors have changed in Viet-Nam in the past month:

1. The Vietnamese Communists, stung by our PT-boat bombing retaliation, have retaliated with the technique they know best—stepped-up guerrilla warfare.

2. Sen. Barry Goldwater has boxed the compass regarding Viet-Nam.

Amazed newsmen listened last week as he proposed negotiating regarding Viet-Nam. Hitherto he has accused Mr. Johnson of appeasement for even thinking about negotiating. But newsmen stood with their mouths open, as the likeable GOP candidate for President said he would negotiate with Red China.

Previously he had proposed withdrawing from the United Nations if it admitted Red China.

Makarios and Moscow

In Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios has now come out in the open regarding his flirtation with Moscow. When Vice President Lyndon Johnson visited that controversial island in 1962 he got an extremely cool reception. It was reported then that Communists had begun to penetrate local Greek Cypriot newspapers.

Since then Makarios has

warned American diplomats that he would get armed help from Moscow if Turkey invaded. The Kremlin has been more cautious than Makarios about armed assistance, but has been willing to extend \$30 million in economic aid.

Meanwhile, Greek Premier George Papandreou, whom the State Department has not always adored, had the courage to publicly rebuke Makarios. This took a lot more guts than realized in this country, because Cyprus has become such an inflammatory issue in Greece that any Prime Minister who bucks the crowd risks being thrown out of power.

Papandreou is a moderate who wants peace and will cooperate with the United States on any reasonable policy. If he should be thrown out of office he would be replaced by the "Young Colonels," the less patient members of the Greek army.

If so, Greece would almost certainly adopt the same policies as that of another "Young Colonel," Gamal Abdel Nasser, who took over in Egypt and is now trading Washington off against Moscow.

This is one of the grave side dangers in the Cyprus controversy. It was not helped by the fact that Raymond Hare, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, sat in on a meeting of the Turkish Security Council when it was decided to drop napalm bombs over Cyprus. The Greeks deeply resented

what appeared to be American acquiescence in this raid, plus U.S. failure to warn their Greek allies about it.

Hand That Bites

While the Democrats were focusing attention on their Boardwalk celebration at Atlantic City, two interesting events elsewhere escaped general attention.

One was an announcement from Tripoli that agreement had been reached to withdraw the giant U.S. bomber base, Wheelus, from Libya.

The other was a little-noticed export permit issued by the Commerce Department to ship 200,000 tons of U.S. wheat to Egypt. The price, \$11,500,000, to be paid in Egyptian currency which the United States cannot spend, except in Egypt.

It was President Nasser who, in 1964, Bell-McClure Syndicate, Inc. goaded his neighbors, the Libyan government, to cancel the Wheelus Air Force base, largest bomber base we have outside the United States. He has been trying to get all American military bases removed from Africa.

The current U.S. policy of feeding Nasser with about 60 per cent of all the wheat consumed by the Egyptian people has been dubbed by the diplomats as "feeding the monster that bites you."